

MINERALOGY, THREE DIMENSIONAL STRUCTURE, AND OXYGEN ISOTOPE RATIOS OF FOUR CRYSTALLINE PARTICLES FROM COMET 81P/WILD 2.

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Introduction: Preliminary examinations of small dust particles from comet 82P/Wild 2 revealed many expected and unexpected features [e. g., 1, 2]. Among them the most striking feature is the presence of abundant crystalline material in the comet. Synchrotron radiation X-ray diffraction and microtomography are the most efficient methods to detect and describe bulk mineralogical features of crystalline cometary particles [3, 4]. In the present study, in addition to these two non-destructive techniques, electron microscopy and ion-probe mass spectrometry were carried out on the four crystalline particles.

Experimental procedures: Systematic screening was performed in order to detect crystalline particles. All allocated particles were first exposed to synchrotron X-rays at KEK to obtain diffraction patterns [3]. Crystalline particles were next exposed to synchrotron X-rays at SPring-8 to image three dimensional structures [3, 4]. Based on the results of tomography with sub-micron resolution, the four crystalline particles showing igneous structure were chosen for further analysis. Individual particles were embedded in epoxy resin and microtomed to make thin foils for TEM investigation [5]. Approximately half of each particle was left in potted butts, which are used for further electron- and ion-microprobe analyses. The potted butts were embedded again in epoxy resin with one San Carlos olivine standard grain and polished to have flat surfaces. The sample mounts were finished as polished disks (one sample and one olivine particle/each exposed on the surfaces).

Each particle was observed by FE-SEM at University of Tokyo through the courtesy of Dr. Nagahara for micro-texture and analyzed by electron probe at Kyushu University for mineral chemistry. Then oxygen isotope analysis was performed at University of Wisconsin-Madison using CAMECA IMS 1280 [6]. By using focused Cs⁺ beam with 1 μ m

diameter and multicollection system with both Faraday Cup (¹⁶O ~3M cps) and electron multipliers (¹⁷O and ¹⁸O), we obtained several to ten high precision (1-2‰) oxygen isotope ratios from each stardust particle.

Results and discussion:

Gozen-sama (C2081,1,108,1) This is the largest terminal particle (40 μ m diameter) taken from track 108 with 13mm in length. Synchrotron X-ray diffraction (S-XRD) analysis showed that well-crystalline olivine and low-Ca pyroxene are major phases and kamacite is a minor phase. Tomography analysis showed that the particle contains many small round FeNi metal inclusions. Small amounts of melted aerogel + Fe-rich cometary material is present with a discrete sharp boundary to the surface of the particle.

Electron microscopy of polished surface indicated that it has poikilitic texture in an entire region: two sub-round olivine (7 and 15 μ m in diameter for Ol-1 and Ol-2, respectively) set in low-Ca pyroxene. Ol-1 is Fo₉₅ with trace concentrations of MnO 0.5wt%, Cr₂O₃ 0.5wt%, CaO 0.1wt%. Core-rim Fe-Mg zoning is not observed. Ol-2 is Fo₉₄ with MnO 0.2-0.4wt%, Cr₂O₃ 0.5wt%, CaO 0.1wt%: Ol-2 is slightly richer in FeO and poorer in MnO. Low-Ca pyroxene is homogeneous at En₉₅Wo₁ with Al₂O₃ 0.8wt%, TiO₂ 0.2wt%, MnO 0.1-0.3wt%, Cr₂O₃ 0.5wt%.

Ion-microprobe analysis (10 points) showed that the particle is very heterogeneous in oxygen isotope ratios (-45 to +5 ‰: Fig.1). Ol-1 is most enriched in ¹⁶O (δ^{18} O from -45 to +2 ‰), while Ol-2 is depleted in ¹⁶O (δ^{18} O from +2 to +5 ‰). Low-Ca pyroxene showed intermediate composition between the two olivine grains. Grid analyses with 2 μ m interval over 10 μ m square (36 points) were performed on the portion containing ¹⁶O-rich hot spot in Ol-1. The results revealed that it contains 3 x 5 μ m core area that is highly enriched in ¹⁶O (δ^{18} O < -10 ‰) and δ^{18} O of its rim is close to that of low-Ca pyroxene enclosing

the Ol-1. Similarly, 4-point line analyses in Ol-2 indicate core-rim zoning of oxygen isotope ratios and the rim has composition close to surrounding low-Ca pyroxene.

The above results suggest that Gozen-sama is a product of partial melting at peritectic temperature of ~1550 °C. During heating, rims of Ol-1 and -2 were melted and recrystallized, resulting in oxygen isotope equilibrium with surrounding low-Ca pyroxene, whereas cores of Ol-1 and -2 were not melted and retained their initial oxygen isotopic ratios. Low-Ca pyroxene was crystallized from melt, which is supported by uniform oxygen isotope ratios.

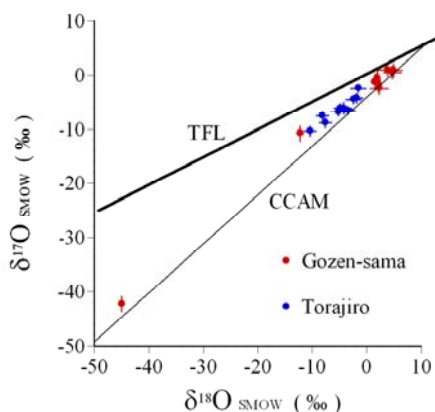


Fig. 1. Oxygen isotope ratios of Gozen-sama and Torajiro.

Torajiro (C2054,0,35,6, 0). This is a terminal particle of a sub-track branched from main-track #35 with 11mm in length. It is a non-porous aggregate consisting of highly crystalline olivine, low-Ca pyroxene, and kamacite. Melted aerogel is present on the surface of the particle. Electron microscopy of the polished surface shows both poikilitic and porphyritic textures. The poikilitic region consists olivine phenocrysts (Fo₈₀ and MnO 0.8wt%, Cr₂O₃ 0.2wt%, CaO 0.4wt%) and low-Ca pyroxene oikocryst (En₈₈Wo₃ and Al₂O₃ 1-2wt%, TiO₂ 0.2wt%, MnO 0.4wt%, Cr₂O₃ 0.8wt%). In the porphyritic region, olivine is similar in composition but pyroxene is slightly depleted in MgO compared to those in the poikilitic region. In the poikilitic region Cr-rich spinel occurs, while in the porphyritic region kamacite and SiO₂- and Al₂O₃-rich mesostasis glass occur.

In-situ isotope measurement (11 points) indicated that Torajiro is heterogeneous in oxygen isotopic ratios (Fig. 1), but total range of distribution is narrower than Gozen-sama. δ¹⁸O of olivine in both poikilitic and

porphyritic regions is from -8 to -4‰. On the other hand, δ¹⁸O of low-Ca pyroxene in the porphyritic region is richer in ¹⁶O (δ¹⁸O = -10 to -5‰) than that in the poikilitic region (-2 to -1‰). The heterogeneous oxygen isotopic ratios along the slope 1 line suggest that Torajiro was also formed through partial melting of precursor material with various oxygen compositions.

Gen-chan (C2081,1,108,7) This is a terminal particle 20 x 10 μm in size of a subtrack of the track 108. The dominant crystalline phase is clinopyroxene. Observation of the polished surface shows a single crystal of Mn-rich pyroxene (En₈₄Wo₁₁ and Al₂O₃ 3wt%, TiO₂ 0.3wt%, MnO 5wt%, Cr₂O₃ 1.5wt%) and SiO₂- and Al₂O₃-rich glass. The glass (2 x 3 μm) is enclosed by the pyroxene, suggesting that both formed by melting. Oxygen composition of the pyroxene is constant at δ¹⁸O = +2 ‰ close to CCAM line.

Lilly (C2054,0,35,4,0) This is not a terminal 10 x 15 μm particle extracted from a portion close to Torajiro. The particle consists of olivine, low-Ca pyroxene, and plagioclase. Observation of the polished surface shows that a pyroxene (7 x 10 μm in size, En₉₁Wo₄ and Al₂O₃ 2wt%, TiO₂ 0.3wt%, MnO 2wt%, Cr₂O₃ 2wt%) in contact with Mn-rich olivine (Fo₉₀ and MnO 2wt%, Cr₂O₃ 0.3wt%, CaO 0.2wt%) and SiO₂- and Al₂O₃-rich glass or plagioclase. Small chromite grains less than 100nm in size are entrained at the boundary between pyroxene and olivine. Ion-microprobe analysis was not performed on this particle due to heavy cracking during polishing.

All four analyzed particles have experienced igneous processes during formation, which is supported by the presence of poikilitic or porphyritic textures and the glass phases that are enclosed in, or directly in contact to, silicates. This suggests that the particles are pieces of chondrules. The range of oxygen isotope ratios, and major and minor element concentrations of silicates in the four particles are very similar to those of silicates in chondrules in carbonaceous chondrites. Thus, we suggest that Wild 2 contains chondrules that are similar to type I and type II chondrules in carbonaceous chondrites.

References: [1] Brownlee D. et al. (2006) *Science*, 314, 1711-1716. [2] Zolensky et al. (2006) *Science*, 314, 1735-1739. [3] Nakamura T. et al. (2007) *Meteorit. Planet. Sci.*, in press. [4] Tsuchiyama A. et al. (2007) *Meteorit. Planet. Sci.*, submitted. [5] Noguchi et al. (2002) *Earth Planet. Sci. Lett.*, 202, 229-246. [6] Kita N. T. et al. (2007) *LPS XXXVIII*, Abstract #1981.